

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 05772 101415Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-07
OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-05 /086 W
-----047865 101435Z /40

R 101312Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4768
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
DEA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY ROME

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EMBASSIES FOR DEA OR NCO'S

E.O. 11652: N/A
AGS: SNAR, UN, LE, SY
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT CONCERNING LEBANESE HASHISH AND OPIUM

REF: (A) GENEVA 7638 (B) CAIRO 4917

1. REF B WAS REPEAT OF REF A. WITH WEEKEND AND SARG
OFFICES CLOSED NEXT WEEK FOR END OF RAMADAN FEAST, WE HAVE
NO IMMEDIATE MEANS TO VERIFY PRESS REPORT. HOWEVER,
FROM INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED FROM SYRIAN NARCOTIC
POLICE AND CERTAIN TRAVELLERS FROM BEKAA AREA, LONDON PRESS
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PAGE 02 DAMASC 05772 101415Z

REPORT SEEMS EXAGGERATED, PARTICULARLY WITH
REGARD TO PLANTINGS OF OPIUM. SYRIAN NARCOTIC
POLICE REPORT THIS YEAR'S OPIUM CROP WAS FOR TEST PURPOSES
AND WAS NOT OF SIGNIFICANT MARKET VALUE. HOWEVER, GIVEN
SENSITIVITY OF SYRIAN POLICE TO QUESTIONING ABOUT WHAT EVEN
THEY ADMIT TO BE POLITICALLY-PROTECTED TRAFFICKING IN LEBANON,
WE FEEL THAT THEY HAVE A TENDENCY TO DOWNPLAY MAGNITUDE OF

LEBANESE PLANTINGS. PRIME FOCUS OF SYRIAN POLICE
HAS BEEN ON POSSIBLE TRAFFICKING THROUGH SYRIA.

2. WE FEEL BEIRUT WOULD BE IN POSITION TO PROVIDE
COMMENT. IN THIS REGARD, DEA ANKARA AND
BEIRUT MAY WISH TO CONTACT YAZBECK OF "GREEN PLAN"
FOR REPORT. WHEN OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, WE WILL ASK
SYRIAN NARCOTIC POLICE FOR COMMENT ON ARTICLE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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